

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /113 W

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P 031000Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8518

INFO DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ QUERY ON OIL SUPPLY TO USFJ

REF: TOKYO 15037 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS ASKED WHETHER USG HAS DECIDED TO OBTAIN OIL REQUIRED BY US FORCES IN JAPAN ENTIRELY FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE JAPAN BEGINNING NEXT YEAR. EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH MOVE WOULD REMOVE ISSUE OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN JAPAN AND US PRIVILEGES UNDER SOFA FROM INCREASINGLY ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE IN JAPAN ON OIL CRISIS. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE SOONEST. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF HAS ASKED EMBASSY DEC 1 WHETHER USG HAS DECIDED TO OBTAIN OIL USED BY US FORCES IN JAPAN ENTIRELY FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE JAPAN BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1974, AND TO ABANDON PROCUREMENT FROM JAPANESE SOURCES. (SEE REFTEL FOR AMOUNTS OBTAINED HERE, I.E. ONLY THREE-DAY SUPPLY PER MONTH FOR PACOM FORCES.)

2. FONOFF CITED "YOMIURI" STORY DEC 1
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(DATELINED WASHINGTON NOV 30) WHICH SAID USG WAS

ABOUT MAKE SUCH DECISION AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO EASE ENERGY PLIGHT CONFRONTING US ALLIES. ALSO, FONOFF HAS REPORT FROM EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO EFFECT THAT DOD SOURCE SAID POL OBTAINED ON PRIORITY BASIS BY DOD UNDER DEFENSE PROCUREMENT ACT WILL BE SUPPLIED TO US FORCES ABROAD AS WELL AS WITHIN US, AND THIS BEING THE CASE, POL SO PROCURED WILL BE SENT TO US FORCES IN JAPAN. SPECIFIC AMOUNT NOW UNDER STUDY BY DOD.

3. COMMENT: GOJ HAS BEEN UNDER GROWING PRESSURE IN DIET COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC MEDIA TO CLARIFY ITS POLICY CONCERNING POL SUPPLY FROM DOMESTIC OUTLETS TO USFJ. ON NHK-TV PROGRAM DEC 2, FOR EXAMPLE, JCP REPRESENTATIVE ATTACKED CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO FOR "DOING NOTHING" TO RESTRICT OIL FLOW TO USFJ, WHILE "ALL OTHER MAJOR OIL USERS IN JAPAN" HAVE BEEN CUT BACK TEN PERCENT SINCE NOV 20. USG DECISION TO FOREGO SUPPLY FROM JAPANESE SOURCES IN NEW CALENDAR YEAR WOULD, OF COURSE, HELP EASE ENERGY PROBLEM HERE, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH DECISION WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN REMOVING POLITICAL ISSUE OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN JAPAN AND US PRIVILEGES UNDER SOFA (E.G. ARTICLE 12) FROM INCREASINGLY ACrimonious DEBATE BETWEEN GOJ AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ON OIL CRISIS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE SOONEST.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, ARMED FORCES, INFLATION, MILITARY BASES, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO15639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731248/aaaabjea.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 15037 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOJ QUERY ON OIL SUPPLY TO USFJ
TAGS: MARR, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005